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THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

RECEIVED IN HA: SEP 7 1979

Argentina

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September 6, 1979

Dear Ted:

Many thanks for your letter of August 16 regarding the human rights situation in Argentina.

We also were concerned about the court-ordered police raids you mention in your letter, including the raids directed against the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights. After being closed for a short while under a judicial order, the offices of the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights have been reopened, and that organization has initiated judicial action for the return of its files which were confiscated in the raids.

We have expressed to the Government of Argentina our serious concern about these events and the effect they could have on the visit of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Government of Argentina has told the Commission that it will receive the cooperation and assistance necessary to ensure the success of the visit.

Thank you for your active interest in this important question.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

Mr. Merrell E. Clark, Jr.,
President, The Association of the
Bar of the City of New York,
42 West 44th Street,
New York, New York.

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8/28/79 ext. 22161
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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
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Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
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3. AT LIBERTAD OUR PROGRAM BEGAN WITH A TWO-HOUR BRIEFING BY TOP PRISON OFFICIALS, WHO ARE ALL MILITARY MEN AS THE PRISON IS UNDER ARMED FORCES JURISDICTION. WITH CHARTS, SLIDES AND LOTS OF STATISTICS OUR HOSTS DESCRIBED IN DETAIL ALL ASPECTS OF LIBERTAD. THEY RESPONDED FORTHRIGHTLY TO THE MANY QUESTIONS, SOME RATHER BLUNT, WHICH I AND SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES (MAINLY THE WEST EUROPEANS) ASKED. A REPORT OF THE DATA PRESENTED, WHICH PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR SOME OF MY CONCLUSIONS, WILL BE SENT SEPARATELY.

R.

SECTION 1 OF 5 MONTEVIDEO 3287

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, UY, PINS
SUBJECT: REPORT ON CHARGE'S VISITS TO PRISONS AND CONVERSATIONS
WITH POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: (A) MONTEVIDEO 2944 (B) MONTEVIDEO 2999

1. SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS ON MY AUGUST 30 AND 31 VISITS (WITH 26 OTHER CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS) TO THE TWO PRISONS WHERE APPROXIMATELY 1500 OF URUGUAY'S 1600 POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE CONFINED AND ON MY PERSONAL CONVERSATIONS WITH SIX PRISONERS OF HIGH INTEREST TO THE USG. MY MAJOR CONCLUSIONS ARE THAT CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT FOR THE POLITICAL PRISONERS RANGE FROM ADEQUATE TO, IN SOME RESPECTS, VERY SATISFACTORY; THAT THE HOSTILE ATTITUDE OF GOV OFFICIALS TOWARD THE POLITICAL PRISONERS HAS EASED SOMEWHAT, EVEN TO THE POINT OF SYMPATHY IN SOME CASE; AND THAT THE SIX PRISONERS OF HIGH INTEREST TO THE USG ARE ALL BEING WELL TREATED AND ARE IN GOOD SPIRITS WITH FOUR OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THEIR EARLY RELEASE. ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT HAVE THE PRIVATE PRISONER VISITS WE EXPECTED, MOST OF MY COLLEAGUES AND I BELIEVE THAT THE PRISON VISITS WERE WORTHWHILE BECAUSE:

-- THEY PROVIDED FIRSTHAND INSIGHT INTO ACTUAL PRISON CONDITIONS AS WELL AS PERSONAL CONTACT WITH PRISONERS.
-- THE ACTIVELY INVOLVED 27 CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN THE POLITICAL PRISONER PROBLEM, MANY FOR THE FIRST TIME.
-- THEY GAVE URUGUAYAN AUTHORITIES AN EXPOSURE WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL HAVE A SALUTARY AND USEFUL IMPACT ON THEM.
-- THEY BOOSTED THE MORALE OF THE PRISONERS THEMSELVES, MAKING THEM AWARE OF OUR HUMANITARIAN CONCERN AND INVOLVEMENT; AND,
-- THEY ENABLED US TO BETTER RESPOND TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS OF OUR CONSTITUENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. REFS GIVE THE BACKGROUND ON THE GOV INVITATION TO CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS TO VISIT THE TWO FACILITIES WHERE POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE CONFINED. THEY ALSO REPORT MY INSISTENCE (JOINED BY OTHERS) THAT THESE VISITS INCLUDE PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH SELECTED PRISONERS, AND THE GOV'S APPARENT ACCEPTANCE OF THIS CONDITION. PURSUANT TO THESE ARRANGEMENTS 1 AND 26 OTHER CHIEFS OF MISSION, REPRESENTING MANY OF THE NATIONS OF WESTERN EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA, THE VATICAN, ISRAEL, EGYPT, JAPAN, KOREA, YUGOSLAVIA, AND ROMANIA AS WELL AS CANADA AND AUSTRALIA (WHOSE AMBASSADORS CAME FROM BUENOS AIRES FOR THE OCCASION) VISITED THE PRISONS AS A GROUP. ON AUGUST 30 WE VISITED FOR NINE HOURS AT LIBERTAD PRISON AND ON AUGUST 31 FOR FOUR HOURS AT PUNTA RIELES WHERE 1322 MALE PRISONERS AND 242 FEMALE PRISONERS, RESPECTIVELY, ARE CONFINED. OUR TRIP ESCORTS WERE THE ACTING CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S THIRD-RANKING OFFICIAL (THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, AN AIR FORCE COLONEL, THE ARMY COLONEL HEADING THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION ON PERSONS (OCIP) AND AN ARMY COLONEL FROM THE ARMED FORCES

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

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Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

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THIS GRATITUDE TO THEM. HE SAID HE HAD NO COMPLAINTS RE
TREATMENT AND HOPED FOR RELEASE IN THE NEAR FUTURE (A
DISTINCT POSSIBILITY). HE ALSO HOPED THAT URUGUAY WOULD SOON
HEAL THE WOUNDS OF ITS CAMPAIGN AGAINST POLITICAL DISSIDENTS
AND RELEASE HIS FELLOW INMATES. WE PARTED WITH A FIRM HAND-
SHAKE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT FROM THE OTHER PRISONERS. THROUGHOUT,
MY ESCORT KEPT A DISCRETE DISTANCE BUT WELL WITHIN VIEW AND
EARSNOT. THE SPANISH CHARGE (THE ONLY OTHER COM ACCOMPANYING
ME) ALSO HAD A SIMILAR MEETING WITH ONE OF HIS NATIONALS IN
THE BARRACKS SECTION.

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4. FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING OUR HOSTS DIVIDED US INTO SMALLER
GROUPS, EACH TO BE ESCORTED ON A TOUR OF ALL PRISON FACILITIES
BY ONE OF THE PRISON OFFICIALS. AT THIS POINT WE WERE TOLD THAT
EACH COM WHO HAD ASKED TO VISIT PRISONERS COULD VISIT ONE
PRISONER IN HIS CELL. OUR MEETINGS WITH THE
REMAINING PRISONERS ON OUR LISTS WOULD BE IN THE REGULAR VISITING
FACILITY WHERE WE WOULD BE COMMUNICATING VIA AN INTERCOM TELE-
PHONE, WHILE VIEWING ONE ANOTHER THROUGH A HEAVY GLASS
PARTITION. FURTHERMORE, FOR SECURITY REASONS, OUR SINGLE VISIT
TO A PRISONER IN HIS CELL WOULD BE WITNESSED BY OUR ESCORT
OFFICER. SINCE NONE OF MY COLLEAGUES TOOK THE LEAD TO PROTEST
THIS VIOLATION OF OUR PRIOR UNDERSTANDING WITH THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY AS TO THE PRIVATE NATURE OF OUR PRISONER VISITS, I
VOICED OUR OBJECTIONS. CITING VERBAL ASSURANCES OF MINISTRY
OFFICIALS AS WELL AS THE EMBASSY'S DIPLOMATIC NOTE SENT TEN
DAYS HENCE STATING OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE VISITS
WOULD BE PRIVATE WITH NO GOV OFFICIALS PRESENT, I ASKED
THAT THIS COMMITMENT BE HONORED. I SAID I APPRECIATED
OUR HOST'S CONCERN FOR OUR SAFETY BUT I WAS WILLING TO TAKE
MY CHANCES AND, IN ANY EVENT, DID NOT WISH THEM TO JEOPARDIZE
THEMSELVES FOR ME. COLONEL EGANA, THE FORMER DIRECTOR
GENERAL, REPLIED THAT THE MINISTRY WAS AWARE THAT SOME
COM'S WISHED TO HAVE PRIVATE MEETINGS BUT HAD BEEN UNABLE TO
OBTAIN THIS. THE PRISON COMMANDANT SAID PRIVATE VISITS WERE
AGAINST THE RULES AND THEREFORE OUT OF THE QUESTION. FACED
WITH THIS I ASSEMBLED MY SILENT WEST EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES
TO ASCERTAIN IF THEY WOULD STICK TO OUR EARLIER MUTUAL
AGREEMENT TO BOYCOTT THE TOUR IF IT DID NOT INCLUDE PRIVATE
VISITS WITH PRISONERS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE DUTCH CHARGE
(A GUTSY GAL) THEY DEMURRED ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY DID NOT
WISH TO CREATE "AN INCIDENT". TO PRESERVE THE UNITY OF OUR
HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP, SUCH AS IT WAS, I AGREED TO COMPLETE THE
PROGRAM. IN THE END I WAS GLAD THAT I DID; ALTHOUGH AT THE
MOMENT I WAS ANGRY AND VERY DISAPPOINTED.

5. PROCEEDING WITH THE TOUR OF FACILITIES, I USED MY
OPTION FOR ONE IN-CELL VISIT TO MEET WITH LUIS MARIA BAZZANO,
A FORMER AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE EXCHANGE STUDENT WHO HAS
AROUSED THE CONCERN OF MOST OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE AND MUCH
OF TENNESSEE INCLUDING SENATOR BAKER AND SEVERAL REPRESENTA-
TIVES. I MET WITH BAZZANO IN THE PRESENCE OF THE 39 INMATES
WHO SHARE HIS CONFINEMENT IN ONE OF THE LIBERTAD "BARRACKS"
UNITS (400 LOWER RISK PRISONERS ARE HOUSED IN THE BARRACKS
SECTION AND THE REMAINING 900 IN A FIVE-STORY BUILDING OF
TWO-MAN CELLS). I EXPLAINED TO BAZZANO THAT I WAS THERE BE-
CAUSE OF USG INTEREST IN HIS CASE PURSUANT TO OUR HUMAN
RIGHTS POLICY AND THAT I SPECIFICALLY REPRESENTED THE MANY
IN TENNESSEE, INCLUDING CONGRESS MEMBERS, WHO HAD WRITTEN TO
ME CONCERNING HIM. ALTHOUGH I HAD EXPECTED TO SEE HIM IN
PRIVATE, I EXPLAINED THAT THIS HAD BEEN REFUSED. I OFFERED TO
CONVEY ANY MESSAGE HE HAD. IN A STEADY BUT EMOTIONALLY-
CHARGED VOICE, BAZZANO THANKED ME FOR THE HUMANITARIAN
CONCERN OF MY PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT, ASKING ME TO COMMUNICATE

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6. PROCEEDING TO THE LARGE BUILDING, WE TOURED EACH FLOOR AND VISITED THE MANY SHOPS, OFFICES, CLINICS AND PRISONER SERVICES WHERE INMATES WORK DURING THE DAY. IN EACH THE PATRIARD AND I SHOOK HANDS AND TALKED WITH THE PRISONERS PRESENT WHO EXPLAINED THEIR WORK. ALL THE PRISONERS APPEARED IN GOOD HEALTH AND, WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS, IN GENERALLY GOOD SPIRITS. THE CELLS WE VISITED, ALTHOUGH SMALL, WERE CLEAN AND FILLED WITH BOOKS AND OTHER PERSONAL BELONGINGS. THE BUILDING IS UNHEATED, BUT THE PRISONERS WERE WELL BUNDLED UP IN THEIR PERSONAL SWEATERS AND SCARVES AGAINST THE COLD. THEIR PHYSICAL APPEARANCE TESTIFIED TO OFFICIAL STATEMENTS THAT EACH RECEIVES ABOUT FIVE THOUSAND CALORIES PER DAY, WHICH PRISON DOCTORS ALSO CONFIRMED. MEDICAL, DENTAL AND OPTICAL CARE, PROVIDED IN LARGE PART BY INMATES AND SUPPLEMENTED BY VISITS TO MONTEVIDEO'S MAIN MILITARY HOSPITAL, SEEMED ADEQUATE. PROBABLY EQUAL TO OR BETTER THAN THAT AFFORDED ORDINARY URUGUAYANS. THE REGIMEN OF RECREATION, WORK, AND RECEIPT OF VISITS AND PARCELS, ALTHOUGH TIGHTLY CONTROLLED, ALSO APPEARED ADEQUATE.

7. AS OUR TOUR PROGRESSED, MY ESCORT OFFICER SURPRISINGLY OFFERED ME A SECOND IN-CELL VISIT WITH DR. JOSE LUIS MASSERA, ANOTHER ON MY LIST. I INTRODUCED MYSELF TO MASSERA WITH AN EXPLANATION SIMILAR TO THAT GIVEN BAZZANO. MASSERA BUBBLED WITH GOOD SPIRITS AND OPTIMISM. HIS WIFE, UST RELEASED ON CONDITIONAL LIBERTY, HAD VISITED WITH HIM THE DAY BEFORE, THEIR FIRST MEETING IN SEVERAL YEARS. HE READ HIS WIFE'S UNEXPECTED FREEDOM AS A GOOD OMEN. HE PROUDLY SHOWED ME AN INSCRIBED HIGHER MATHEMATICS BOOK RECEIVED FROM THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FOLLOWING HIS APRIL 1978 VISIT FROM DRS. ANFINSEN AND PERRY. I PROMISED TO CONVEY HIS GRATITUDE TO THE HAS AN ALSO TO PROVIDE INFORMATION OF HIS SITUATION TO THE NEW YORK MEDICAL GROUP, WHICH HAD ASKED TO VISIT HIM IN AUGUST BUT HAD NOT RECEIVED GOV PERMISSION. TO MY FURTHER SURPRISE, DURING MY VISIT WITH MASSERA, MY MILITARY ESCORT WITHDREW TO THE CORRIDOR BEYOND HEARING RANGE, ENABLING US TO CONVERSE IN PRIVATE.

8. AS AN ADDITIONAL BONUS, DURING OUR VISIT TO THE PRISON MUSIC BROADCAST FACILITY I ENCOUNTERED MIGUEL ANGEL ESTRELLA, THE INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS CONCERT PIANIST WHO, ALTHOUGH A HIGH U.S. INTEREST CASE, WAS NOT ON MY SELECT LIST. AGAIN MY ESCORT WITHDREW PERMITTING ME A CONFIDENTIAL FIFTEEN-MINUTE CONVERSATION. APPEARING HEALTHY AND SELF-CONFIDENT, ESTRELLA PROCLAIMED HIS INNOCENCE OF ANY MONTONERO INVOLVEMENT. HE PROFESSED TO BEING WELL TREATED AND HOPED TO BE RELEASED SHORTLY. HE WAS GRAVELY CONCERNED THAT FURTHER CONFINEMENT WITH ONLY A DUMMY KEYBOARD FOR PRACTICE COULD CAUSE HIM TO LOSE HIS TALENT AND EAR FOR MUSIC. HE ASKED ME TO THANK ALL THOSE WORKING ON HIS BEHALF.

9. THE LAST STOP ON OUR TOUR WAS THE TWENTY-CELL SOLITARY CONFINEMENT BUILDING. UNOCCUPIED AT THE TIME AND ALLEGEDLY LITTLE

USED IN RECENT MONTHS, IT ACCORDED WITH THE POPULAR GRIM CONCEPTION OF A "SOLITARY" CELL BLOCK. A FINAL INTERESTING OBSERVATION WAS THAT THE MAXIMUM SECURITY SECTION HOUSED LESS THAN TWO HUNDRED. THIS SEEMS TO CONFIRM ASSESSMENTS THAT ONLY APPROXIMATELY 200 OF THE 1300 POLITICAL PRISONERS AT LIBERTAD ARE IN THE TERRORIST CATEGORY.

10. FOLLOWING MY TOUR I SEPARATELY MET IN THE VISITING ROOM WITH THE TWO REMAINING PRISONERS ON MY LIST, NIBER CONTERIS SARDO AND JACOBO FRYD SABASKY. CONTERIS, THE BROTHER OF AMERICAN CITIZEN ILDA THOMAS AND SUBJECT OF SEVERAL CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES, WAS A NOTED JOURNALIST. SINCE THE INTERCOM TELEPHONE WAS PRESUMABLY TAPPED OUR STATEMENTS WERE GUARDED. I EXPLAINED MY VISIT AS I HAD TO THE OTHER PRISONERS VISITED. CONTERIS EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THE VISIT AND OUR INTEREST IN HIM AND OTHERS. HE SAID THAT, SINCE HIS SENTENCE WAS SO LONG, HE PINNED HIS HOPES FOR RELEASE ON A NATIONAL HEALING AND AMHESTY. THROUGH SIGN LANGUAGE HE CONFIRMED TO ME THAT HE HAD BEEN MISTREATED DURING INITIAL DETENTION BUT SAID HIS TREATMENT AT LIBERTAD HAD BEEN SATISFACTORY.

FRYD, A SUBJECT OF AMHESTY AND ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE (ADL) INQUIRIES, WAS EQUALLY GUARDED IN HIS COMMENTS. ALSO USING SIGN LANGUAGE, HE CONFIRMED MISTREATMENT DURING INITIAL DETENTION, FOLLOWED BY GENERALLY SATISFACTORY TREATMENT AT LIBERTAD. EMPLOYING REFERENCES TO THE ADL, HE COMMUNICATED THAT HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN THE VICTIM OF MISTREATMENT (WITH AN ANTI-SEMITIC MOTIVATION) BY GUARDS AT LIBERTAD.

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BEFORE DEPARTING LIBERTAD THE ISRAELI CHARGE (WHO ALSO RECEIVED REPORTS OF SUCH INCIDENTS FROM SEVERAL OF THE JEWISH PRISONERS HE VISITED) AND I PRESENTED THESE CHARGES TO THE COMMANDANT OF GUARDS. HE PROFESSED TO BE UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH INCIDENTS BUT PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE AND TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION IF NECESSARY.

11. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY (AUGUST 31) OUR CON GROUP VISITED PUNTA RIELES WOMEN'S PRISON. OUR LENGTHY INITIAL BRIEFING BY THE STAFF WAS SIMILAR TO THAT AT LIBERTAD, WITH THE NOTABLE ADDITION OF A BIT OF THEATER. AS THE BRIEFING ENDED, THE COMMANDANT PRODUCED A RECENTLY RECEIVED TELEGRAM TO THE GOV FROM THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ALLEGING THAT TWO INMATES WERE NOT RECEIVING URGENTLY-NEEDED MEDICAL ATTENTION. THE TWO WOMEN, YOLANDA IBARRA AND GLADYS YANEZ, WERE THEN BROUGHT SEPARATELY BEFORE US TO ATTEST THAT THEY WERE ILL BUT WERE BEING ADEQUATELY TREATED. THEIR MEDICAL FILES WERE RAD TO US AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THIS. NOTING THAT AN ARMY CAMERAMAN WAS ABOUT TO PHOTOGRAPH THIS PRESENTATION AND THAT MY COLLEAGUES, ONCE AGAIN, WERE INERT IN THEIR REACTION, I LEAPT TO MY FEET TO PROTEST THIS VIOLATION OF A SPECIFIC FOREIGN MINISTRY ASSURANCE (GIVEN AT MY REQUEST) THAT OUR VISIT WOULD NOT BE PUBLICIZED. THE MINISTRY OFFICIALS (TO THEIR CREDIT) CONFIRMED THIS ASSURANCE AND THE PHOTOGRAPHER WAS WITHDRAWN WITH APOLOGIES TO ALL.

12. FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING WE WERE AGAIN SPLIT INTO SMALL GROUPS FOR A TOUR OF THE FACILITIES. WE WERE ADVISED THAT THOSE WHO HAD REQUESTED VISITS WITH INDIVIDUAL PRISONERS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO MEET WITH THEM IN AN OFFICE RATHER THAN IN THE REGULAR TELEPHONE-INTERCOM EQUIPPED VISITING FACILITY. HOWEVER, FOR SECURITY REASONS, A PRISON OFFICIAL WOULD BE PRESENT. THE PERUVIAN CHARGE, NOTING OUR PRIOR UNDERSTANDING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, ASKED FOR PRIVATE MEETINGS. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD ESPECIALLY LIKE TO MEET ALONE WITH THE TWO WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN BROUGHT BEFORE US TO ATTEST TO THEIR MEDICAL CONDITION. HIS REQUEST WAS DENIED.

13. AS THE MEETING ENDED I ENGAGED THE PRISON COMMANDANT, TO EXPLAIN TO HIM THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR MEETING ALONE WITH THE PRISONERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE ABOUT WHOM THERE WERE ALLEGATIONS OF MISTREATMENT. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS BUT SAID HE COULD NOT PERMIT US PRIVATE VISITS. FOLLOWING THIS DISCUSSION HE PERSONALLY ESCORTED ME THROUGH ALL OF THE FACILITIES BECAUSE MY ASSIGNED GROUP HAD ALREADY DEPARTED. OUR TOUR INCLUDED THE QUARTERS OF ALL PRISONERS, WHICH RANGED FROM ROOMS HOUSING EIGHT TO LARGER ROOMS HOUSING FORTY. THE CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT AND SERVICES OFFERED ALL APPEARED TO BE SATISFACTORY. THE GENERAL AMBIENCE WAS LESS GRIM THAN LIBERTAD AND THE REGIME SEEMED MORE RELAXED. I INTRODUCED MYSELF TO ALL OF THE PRISONERS EXPLAINING MY PRESENCE IN TERMS OF USG HUMAN RIGHTS INTERESTS, MUCH AS I DID AT LIBERTAD AND RECEIVED A FAVORABLE REACTION. THE MOOD

OF THE PRISONERS WAS GENERALLY GOOD THOUGH A FEW WERE OBVIOUSLY DEPRESSED. SINCE THE POPULATION AT PUNTA RIELES HAS DECLINED FROM 350 TO 240 OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS AND, ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDANT, WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO AS A RESULT OF PROJECTED RELEASES, THERE IS SOME BASIS FOR PRISONER OPTIMISM.

14. DURING MY TOUR WE ENCOUNTERED THE TWO WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO OUR GROUP. BRAVING THE COMMANDANT'S STONY GAZE ONE (GLADYS YANEZ) CONFESSED TO ME THAT SHE DID NOT WANT TO SAY SO BEFORE THE GROUP, BUT SHE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT HER CONDITION. ALTHOUGH SHE WAS SEEING A DOCTOR AND RECEIVING MEDICATION FOR HER CHRONIC KIDNEY CONDITION, SHE WAS WORRIED THAT IT DID NOT SEEM TO BE IMPROVING. AFTERWARD, I TOLD THE COMMANDANT THAT HE SHOULD NOT FEAR OUR HEARING SUCH A STATEMENT. IT WAS, AFTER ALL, A NORMAL EXPRESSION OF SELF-CONCERN FROM AN ILL PERSON AND NOT, AS HE HAD INTIMATED TO OUR GROUP, A SLANDER EMANATING FROM MOSCOW TO DEFAME URUGUAY. THE COMMANDANT AGREED WITH ME THAT SUCH SITUATIONS COULD BE BEST HANDLED BY THE REC CROSS (ICRC) WHEN IT RESUMED ITS PRIVATE VISITS WITH THE PRISONERS. HE HAD BEEN ADVISED THAT THE ICRC VISITS WOULD SOON BE RENEWED AND SEEMED TO HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THEM.

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15. THE VISIT CONCLUDED WITH MY REQUESTED INDIVIDUAL MEETING WITH GLADYS WARDA, THE DAUGHTER OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF OUR MONITOR, A YOUNG POLICE OFFICER, SHE DID NOT APPEAR RESTRAINED. SHE WAS MOST PLEASED THAT I HAD ASKED TO SEE HER PERSONALLY. SHE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT SHE WILL BE RELEASED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AND ANXIOUS TO RESUME HER LIFE IN URUGUAY.

16. ON SEPTEMBER 6 I MET FOR SEVERAL HOURS WITH ELEVEN CHIEFS OF MISSION FROM WESTERN EUROPE TO COMPARE NOTES ON OUR INDIVIDUAL CONVERSATIONS AND EXPERIENCES. I BRIEFED THEM ON MY MAJOR CONCLUSIONS, WITH WHICH THEY UNANIMOUSLY CONCURRED. THESE CONCLUSIONS ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE ARE:

- THE GOU RENEGED ON ITS COMMITMENT TO PERMIT US TO VISIT ALONE WITH THE PRISONERS WE SELECTED, AND ALMOST SUCCEEDED IN VIOLATING ITS ASSURANCES REGARDING PUBLICITY.
- THE PRISONERS CONFIRMED OUR BELIEF THAT MANY HAD BEEN TORTURED OR SERIOUSLY MISTREATED DURING INITIAL DETENTION AND INTERROGATION.
- MISTREATMENT OF JEWISH PRISONERS BY GUARDS, WITH AN ANTI-SEMITIC MOTIVATION, HAS OCCURRED AT LIBERTAD PRISON.

ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, MY CONCLUSIONS ARE:

- CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT FOR THE POLITICAL PRISONERS RANGE FROM ADEQUATE TO, IN SOME RESPECTS, VERY SATISFACTORY.
- THE HOSTILE ATTITUDE OF GOU OFFICIALS TOWARD OUTSIDE CONTACT WITH THE POLITICAL PRISONERS AND TOWARD THE PRISONERS PERSONALLY HAS EASED SOMEWHAT, EVEN TO THE POINT OF SYMPATHY IN SOME CASES.
- THE SIX PRISONERS OF HIGH INTEREST TO THE USG ARE ALL BEING WELL TREATED AND ARE IN GOOD SPIRITS, WITH FOUR OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THEIR RELEASE.

17. A FINAL, KEY CONSIDERATION IS: WERE THE VISITS WORTHWHILE? I AND MOST OF MY COM COLLEAGUES BELIEVE THE ANSWER IS YES BECAUSE THESE VISITS:

- GAVE US FIRSTHAND INSIGHT INTO ACTUAL PRISON CONDITIONS AS WELL AS PERSONAL CONTACT WITH PRISONERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF HIGH INTEREST.
 - ACTIVELY INVOLVED 27 CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN THE POLITICAL PRISONER PROBLEM (MANY FOR THE FIRST TIME) AND ENABLED INFLUENTIAL LATINS SUCH AS PERU AND COLOMBIA TO JOIN FORCES WITH OUR U. S. /WESTERN EUROPE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP.
 - GAVE URUGUAYAN AUTHORITIES AN EXPOSURE WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL HAVE A SALUTARY AND USEFUL IMPACT ON THEM, PARTICULARLY AS THEY PREPARE TO RECEIVE THE MORE DEMANDING PRISONER VISITS OF THE ICRC.
 - BOOSTED THE MORALE OF THE PRISONERS THEMSELVES, MAKING THEM AWARE OF OUR HUMANITARIAN CONCERN AND INVOLVEMENT; AND,
 - ENABLED US TO BETTER RESPOND TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS OF OUR CONSTITUENTS.
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